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MAR 1 0 1978

Iter 856-B-9 PrEx 7.10:FBIS-SSA-78-38

FBIS-SSA-78-38
Friday
24 February 1978
Vol VIII No 38

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

ORIGINAL

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ETHIOPIA

SPOKESMAN CALLS SIAD BARRE'S PEACE TALK 'SMOKESCREEN'

LD231856Y Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1730 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Ethiopia has described Somali dictator Siad Barre's talk of peace as a smoke-screen solely aimed at consolidating an influx of troops and arms from NATO countries and reactionary Arab regimes to bolster the dwindling morale of his soldiers.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Information and National (?Guidance was commenting on a Western) news agency report which quoted Siad Barre as saying that he wanted a peaceful solution to the war of invasion he himself unleashed, and he is currently amassing arms from abroad to expand his aggression against Ethiopia.

He said that such a statement could only come from a man like Siad Barre, who is known for his record of notorious lies and his contradictory statements. At the same press conference Siad Barre denied that his regular troops had been committed to the war of invasion, but when pressed he said he had a significant number of men inside Ethiopian territory. He also denied that any country was supplying Somalia with arms, while Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Iraq had confirmed that they had sent material and moral support to Mogadiscio, including arms.

The spokesman said: While Siad Barre's imperialist patrons are shouting that Ethiopia should not cross the border into Somalia, the Mogadiscio dictator is saying that there are no international boundaries.

ADDIS ABABA CLAIMS 94 SOMALI SOLDIERS KILLED

LD231952Y Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Members of the regular and militia forces, patriot warriors and members of farmers' associations in the Jemjem District of Sidamo administrative region killed 94 soldiers of the reactionary Mogadiscio Government and recovered many head of cattle and 50 quintals of corn in a joint mopping-up operation they conducted this week.

It is reported that the task force killed soldiers of the reactionary Mogadiscio Government in a mopping-up operation they conducted in the area between Adola Subdistrict and Aroresa Subdistrict, in particular Kocha locality, between 15 and 20 February 1978. The operation is continuing.

OROMOS, ISSAS SURRENDER AFTER SOMALI RETREAT

LD232040Y Addis Ababa Domestic in Amharic [illegible] GMT 23 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] The Diredawa, Issas and Gurgura district administrative office has reported that 64 Oromos and Issas from the Habro and Jijiga districts have surrendered to the militia and regular forces in Jaldesa. They said that they had been duped by the invading Somali troops and had been detained in a camp in Jaldesa until the Ethiopian forces had liquidated the Somali forces in the area.

ETHIOPIAN BELGRADE EMBASSY STATEMENT ON OGADEN WAR

LD232300Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1641 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 23 (TANJUG)--With reference to Somali President Siad Barre's statement regarding the denial that regular Somali soldiers are still not participating in the Ogaden war, the embassy of the Provisional Military Government of socialist Ethiopia in Belgrade stated today that "this is a deviation from the truth, and is intended to mislead world public opinion".

The embassy statement says that Ethiopia has made it clear to the world that her forces are not only fighting in the Ogaden with Somali regular soldiers alone, but also with more than 10,000 troops drawn out from Egypt, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

"Ethiopia also displayed to visiting journalists the varied and modern armaments and weaponry used by Somalia. By showing to the newsmen the captured tanks, artillery and war planes downed by Ethiopia's defending forces, as well as captured members of the regular armed forces of Somalia, Ethiopia provided them the evidence of the actual truth."

It is high time for the Somali rulers to respond to Ethiopia's call for [word indistinct] their regular soldiers and their backers from Ogaden. Otherwise the consequences will be detrimental to the whole Somali people and to the world in general, says the statement of the embassy.

ERITREAN REBELS APPEAL FOR ARAB SUPPORT

NC230947Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 23 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 23 February--Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Bakr, head of the information delegation of the Eritrean Liberation Front--the popular liberation forces, who is currently visiting Doha, has said that the Eritrean revolutionaries are now waging fierce battles against the Ethiopian forces in various areas and are resisting raids by MIG-21's and 23's piloted by Soviet and Cuban pilots.

In a statement to QNA, Abu Bakr said that the position of the Eritrean revolutionaries is good, contrary to the picture depicted by Ethiopian propaganda. He said that the rebels are now besieging the three principal towns of Massawa, Asmara and Barentu, preventing supplies from reaching the besieged Ethiopian forces in these towns.

Abu Bakr called on the Arab states to increase their support to the Eritrean revolution in this current phase to confront the savage Ethiopian assault backed by foreign forces against the people of Eritrea.

KENYA

NAIROBI COMMENTS ON WESTERN ARMS SUPPLIES TO SOMALIA

LD211848Y Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Station commentary: "The Way It Is"]

[Text] The war of aggression by Somalia against neighboring Ethiopia in the Ogaden Province, which broke out in the middle of last year, has assumed international dimensions.

This is demonstrated by the fact that since President Siad Barre of Somalia launched his expansionist campaign for a greater Somalia, a number of countries that are not in any way related to the conflict have extended moral and what they term relief assistance to Somali insurgents. Now that the tide has changed to Ethiopia's advantage, these same countries are supplying Somalia with military hardware and money for purchasing arms. In fact, some of them have publicly pledged to dispatch their own troops to reinforce Somalia's aggression against the territorial integrity of Ethiopia. These allies of Somalia include some Western nations, a number of Arab countries, and Iran. Some of these countries involving themselves in the Ogaden war are doing so under the pretext of trying to stop the infiltration of socialist influence into the Horn of Africa, simply because the Soviet Union is assisting Ethiopia in maintaining her territorial integrity. Others have thrown their weight behind Somalia in the name of Arab and Islamic unity, because Somalia is a member of the Arab League.

But, whoever Somalia's allies are and whatever their reasons for supporting it, they are doing so in complete disregard of Somalia's expansionist ambitions and flagrant violations of both the OAU and UN charters regarding territorial integrity of sovereign states. These allies also support Somalia in the full knowledge of its grand design of a greater Somalia, which she hopes will include parts of Kenya and Djibouti alongside Ethiopia's Ogaden Province, which they have been fighting to annex in the past 7 months.

Indeed, Somalia has declared on several occasions that once it has settled its case in the Ogaden, it will turn to northeastern Kenya. This is why the Kenya Government views with serious concern the open support given to Somalia by countries with which Kenya has diplomatic relations of long standing. The matter is even more grave if viewed in the light of the fact that these same countries have on many occasions proclaimed themselves to be Kenya's dependable friends and good trading partners. It is no longer a secret that Western countries are supplying Somalia with military hardware through intermediaries to help sustain Somalia's naked aggression against Ethiopia. Others are conniving with their friends with the same objectives, while proclaiming their innocence and noninvolvement.

What is disturbing and questionable is the urgency with which Somalia's frantic cries for arms have been answered. The same countries that are quickly arming Somalia have responded rather poorly to Kenya's needs to strengthen its defenses against possible Somali aggression. Either they have been less enthusiastic or have adopted delaying tactics to the extent that they have taken well over a year to deliver arms to this country.

The supply of arms to Somalia has been conducted under a heavy blanket of secrecy, so heavy that very few countries ever knew where Somalia obtained her armaments. In Kenya's case, if any purchase is at all granted it is usually preceded by worldwide publicity about the supply, so loud that every nation, including countries which are hostile to Kenya, are in a position to assess the size and strength of our armed forces and know who Kenya's arms suppliers are.

Kenyans will recall a recent example of this. The clandestine support extended to a country that poses a potential threat to our sovereignty leaves Kenyans in no doubt as to who our real friends are. Indeed, some of these countries that proclaim friendship with Kenya go out of their way to antagonize this country and then refuse to be criticized for their sins against the people of Kenya.

These are the so-called friendly countries that do not want Kenyans to speak their mind on issues affecting the security of this country, because doing so would expose their support for acts of hostility towards this country. It is impossible to rationalize the support rendered to Somalia by countries that claim to be friendly to Kenya and are member-states of the OAU and the UN--bodies which recognize the present boundaries of its member countries as inviolable.

Kenya has persistently supported the struggle for the legitimate rights of the oppressed people wherever they may be in the world even if it entails throwing her weight behind armed struggle as a means to achieve freedom and human respect. It is this position that prompted Kenya to break diplomatic and trade links with Israel when Israel adamantly refused to abide by UN resolution No 242 of 1967, which demanded, among other conditions, Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and granting the Palestinian people their legitimate right to self-determination. And yet, some of the countries which are most vehement in condemnation of Israeli occupation of territory by force do not see any wrong with the same action when taken by Somalia.

On no occasion has Kenya given blessings to any country that aspires to expand her borders by laying claims to or conquering her neighbor's territory, and particularly so that country is poised to turn her attention to Kenya in pursuit of expansionist ambitions. [sentence as heard] It is on this score that Kenya unreservedly comdemns any country that showed an inclination towards or in any way supports Somalia in her current aggression against Ethiopia. Kenya's condemnation is even more vehement when such countries are fully aware that Somalia's acts of territorial banditry militate against the principles of Afro-Arab solidarity and peaceful coexistence among nations, and above all pose the greatest threat to world peace.

Whenever possible Kenya has exerted her influence and energy to maintain, improve and strengthen her relations with all independent countries in the world, and particularly those that are members of the Afro-Arab and nonalined families. In return Kenya expects--and rightly so--these countries to appreciate and respect Kenya's sentiments and to reciprocate this friendship and good will. Diplomatic hypocrisy cannot be used as the best method to conduct interstate relations: That is the way it is.

NAIROBI COMMENTS ON RHODESIA'S INTERNAL TALKS

LD222200Y Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Station commentary]

[Text] After a 14-year heroic struggle for self-determination, the Angolan people found themselves engaged in a bitter civil war when the moment for complete independence had arrived. The civil war plunged the country into the bloodiest nationalist rivalry in independent Africa. The immense loss of life and destruction caused by the civil war resulted from selfish ambitions and a desire for ultimate political power by the Angolan nationalist leaders. Even 2 years after independence sporadic outbreaks of fighting have been reported. Democracy continues to be an elusive dream in Angola.

Recent events in Zimbabwe indicate a recurrence of Angola's ugly episode as a result of continued disagreement and rivalry among the various nationalist leaders. As the need for unity of purpose and action becomes greater and more urgent, the rift between the nationalist leaders in Zimbabwe seems to grow wider, thus giving rebel Ian Smith greater leverage to dictate his terms for Zimbabwe's independence.

There is no fundamental difference between these nationalist movements, because they are all working for the same goal, that is, black majority rule for Zimbabwe. However, they differ over the means of achieving this objective.

The Patriotic Front, led jointly by Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo, maintain that independence can only be attained by continued armed struggle aimed at overthrowing the minority regime of Ian Smith. On the other hand, Bishop Abel Muzorewa of the United African National Council, Rev Ndabaningi Sithole of the African National Council and chief Chirau, of the Zimbabwe United People's Organization are pursuing an internal negotiated settlement with rebel Smith.

The so-called moderate group is in effect engaged in negotiations which, if they succeed, will plunge Zimbabwe into a tragic civil war, perhaps even more tragic than the case was in Angola. So it is difficult to understand what kind of agreement Smith and the moderates can arrive at without antagonizing the Patriotic Front, whose leadership has been ignored. It is to be borne in mind that without the armed struggle now going on in Zimbabwe, the rebels would not have started to talk about majority rule.

The negotiations, however, undermine the OAU stand on the Zimbabwe independence deadlock. The OAU has voiced total rejection of the Salisbury talks, which, it said, were aimed at legitimizing white minority power.

The talks cannot in any way be acceptable to the OAU because they do not cater for the interests of 6 million Africans in Zimbabwe. For instance, the so-called moderates have conceded to Smith's demands for a one-third white parliamentary representation with veto power, which would in effect mean that 100,000 white voters can block important decisions reached by a government elected by almost 3 million black voters. Any compromise reached by Smith with his moderate friends would not produce any crucial change in the colonial character of the present minority regime. We cannot therefore rationalize British apparent interest and support for the current Salisbury talks to the extent of foresaking the Anglo-American proposals which were acceptable to all parties concerned, including the OAU, except Smith and his fellow-rascists.

Smith has no independence to offer to anybody, nor can anything he says be taken seriously. Therefore negotiating with him is treacherous, as the people of Zimbabwe want complete majority rule and not two-thirds majority rule.

Britain must once again assume control of its colony and play its rightful role in bringing the rival groups to a peaceful independence settlement. Anything short of this would mean the beginning of a long, drawn-out, violent civil war in Zimbabwe in which blacks would be pitted against blacks, leaving Smith to pick [up] the pieces. That is the way it is.

SOMALIA

INFORMATION MINISTER LEAVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO PRC

LD231904Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] A nine-man delegation headed by Abdi Kassim Salad, minister of information and national guidance, left Mogadiscio for the People's Republic of China today.

ITALIAN CP OFFICIAL HOLDS TALKS WITH SIAD BARRE

LD241007Y London THE GUARDIAN in English 24 Feb 78 p 6 LD

[Article from James MacManus in Mogadiscio: "Moscow Attempts To Soothe Somalia's Fears of Invasion"]

[Text] The visit to Mogadiscio by a leading member of the Italian Communist Party has produced further Russian assurances that Ethiopian forces will not be allowed to carry the war in the Horn of Africa into Somali territory. Mr Gianni Giadresco, head of the Italian Communist Cooperative Commission arrived in the Somali capital this week and held lengthy discussions with President Siad Barre.

Diplomatic sources here said the president was told that his former Russian allies were prepared to respect Somali borders and wanted a negotiated solution to the conflict.

The Somali leader reportedly replied that he had little faith in Russian promises and repeated his fear of a Russian-Ethiopian invasion to enforce a negotiated return of the Ogaden to the government of Addis Ababa.

President Siad Barre told the Italian intermediary that he would not break relations with Moscow, as has been forecast since the expulsion from Somalia of 3,000 Russian advisers and their families last November. As for negotiations, the Somali position is that any talks with Ethiopia, even through a third party, are impossible until there is a substantial change one way or the other on the battle front.

This attitude is interesting because it indicates far greater confidence on the part of President Siad Barre than the military position of his army would seem to warrant. The Somali leader clearly feels that his regular and guerrilla units in the highland area north of the Ogaden plains will be able to hold and ultimately repulse any Russian-Ethiopian offensive.

This view is not shared by the diplomatic corps in Mogadiscio, although reports from the combat area are beginning to suggest that the Russian military advisers are finding it more difficult to launch a real counter-offensive than had been expected.

The importance of Mr Giadresco's visit is that Russia intends to use the Italian Communist Party as a channel for discreet negotiations with Somalia, and that Moscow is still intent on a negotiated solution to the conflict.

Unsubstantiated reports here say that the Russians have by no means ruled out a jointly-agreed revision of the disputed Somali-Ethiopian boundary to accommodate some if not all of Somalia's territorial aspirations in the Ogaden area.

On the military front there have been several reports here that the Ethiopian air base of Diredawa has come under attack from Somali forces. Radio Moscow and broadcasts from Ethiopia claim that the base has been strafed by Somali planes flown by foreign pilots.

A hit-and-run mortar attack at night by the Somalis seems more likely. In either case this places the Somali forces in a position of greater strength.

UGANDA

AMIN CONGRATULATES NUMAYRI, AL-QADHDHAFI ON RECONCILIATION

LD231322Y Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Life President Idi Amin has cabled the Sudanese and Libyan heads of state, thanking them for the normalization of their relations.

In a telegram to President Jafar Numayri of Sudan, Dr Amin said: Your excellency and dear brother, I (?congratulate) you very sincerely for the great role you have played in the normalization of relations between the Sudan and Libya, and also in the reconciliation between Libya and Chad.

Under the present circumstances I would wish to appeal to you, dear brother, to use your great statesmanship to bring about understanding and reconciliation between Egypt and Libya, which is long overdue.

As for Uganda, we have good understanding with all our neighbors except for a small problem with Tanzania which is caused by exiles. On my part I would be very happy to accept your role to bring about complete understanding and normalization of relations between Uganda and Tanzania. Although we have had more than one confrontation, Uganda is ready even to assist Tanzania in any way we can in the spirit of African brotherhood.

Copies of the telegram went to President Anwar as-Sadat of Egypt; President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; President Felix Malloum of Chad; the secretary general of OAU in Addis Ababa; the secretary general of the Arab League in Cairo; and the secretary general of the United Nations in New York.

The message to the Libyan leader reads: The fact that you have signed an agreement of reconciliation is a very big victory for the African cause and another blow to the imperialists and their sinister plans to divide Africa. This is also a good example and in line with your appeal to all African countries to solve their interstate problems in an African way.

I am sure that if Ethiopia and Somalia take this example, it will help to avoid the internationalization of the conflict and the involvement of any superpower. In this way, what is going on in the northern part of Ethiopia and in the Ogaden region will find a solution in an African way.

Accept Your Excellency and dear brother, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Copies of the message went to President Joseph Broz Tito of Yugoslavia; President Ja'far Numayri of the Democratic Republic of Sudan; President Felix Malloum of the Republic of Chad; the secretary general of the OAU in Addis Ababa; the secretary general of the Arab League in Cairo; and the secretary general of the United Nations in New York.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR BRIEFS UGANDAN OFFICIAL ON HORN CONFLICT

LD2311GOY Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] The permanent secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Matia Lubega, has received the Soviet ambassador to Uganda, Musiyko, at parliament building. The ambassador briefed the permanent secretary on the Ethiopian-Somali conflict. He stated the Soviet position, which is in the following message:

Reports had been recently disseminated in the foreign press as well as statements by officials, above all of Somalia, and in places far beyond that country, which present in a deliberately distorted manner the causes of the origin of the current armed conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia. It is alleged in particular that Soviet military personnel as well as thousands of citizens of other socialist countries are taking part in combat operations on the Ethiopian side. Rumors are also circulated alleging that with their help, an invasion of Ethiopian troops into Somali territory is being prepared, and that, for this purpose, the USSR defense minister has secretly arrived in Ethiopia. Provocative fabrications have also been put in circulation regarding an imaginary participation of Soviet ships and aircraft in the military operations taking place in Ethiopia.

The Soviet Government has to state that all these intentions are absolutely groundless and their purpose is obvious by distorting the actual state of affairs to cover up the designs being nurtured by some quarters in the West for their own interference in the Somali-Ethiopian conflict. The truth is that the Soviet Union for its part has done everything possible to prevent the armed conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia from breaking out. However, when the Somali leaders, contrary to commonsense and the efforts of the true friends of the Somali people, began military operations against Ethiopia and when Somali troops invaded her territory, the Soviet Union, as always in such cases, sided with the victim of aggression. At the request of the Government of Ethiopia, it is giving her appropriate material and technical assistance in repulsing aggression. The Soviet Union has done so proceeding from the fundamental principles of its foreign policy regardless of the fact that this might be followed, and was actually followed, by the known unfriendly steps of the Somali leadership against the Soviet Union itself.

Meanwhile, it is precisely those who are now trying to cast aspersions on the Soviet Union and other socialist countries that actually encouraged the Somali leadership at the time to start the aggression, promising to aid Somalia with weapons. They did so both publicly and, as later became known, during informal contacts with the Somali leadership.

Now that the expansionist plans of the Somali leaders are failing, their sponsors abroad are trying to come to their rescue by continuing arms supplies to Somalia through the third countries and by public assurances of possible open military aid. At the same time, they are trying to intimidate Ethiopia and those countries which support her just struggle against external aggression. And all this is being done at the time when, on the one hand, regular Somali forces still remain on parts of Ethiopian territory captured by them, and when, on the other hand, the Ethiopian leadership has stated officially that its only objective is to free its land and that it is far from intending to send its forces to Somali territory.

As to the Soviet Union, just as before, it comes out for a peaceful settlement of the Somali-Ethiopian conflict through through negotiations based on reciprocal respect by the sides for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders and noninterference in each others' internal affairs.

Of course, the necessary prerequisite for such a settlement must be the unconditional and undelayed withdrawal of Somali troops from Ethiopian territory. There are plenty of examples of what happens when military operations are ended without immediate withdrawal of the invader troops from the foreign lands captured by them. Suffice it to look at the still explosive situation in the Middle East. It is on those who stubbornly refuse to learn a proper lesson from this bitter experience that all responsibilities will fall for the possible consequences of action encouraging the aggressor which may further complicate the Somali-Ethiopian conflict and lead to a new sharpening of the situation throughout the world.

After receiving the Soviet ambassador, the permanent secretary briefed Life President Amin about the message.

The president was very happy to get the information, especially as the Soviet Union had been falsely accused by the enemies of Africa of interfering in Africa's internal affairs. Therefore, Dr Amin was pleased to be reassured that the Soviet Union was not interfering in the internal affairs of any country. On the contrary, the Soviet Union is always ready to help all the oppressed people who are under aggression by imperialists. The Soviet Union is the one which has provided defense and military aid to counter imperialist designs against the freedom-loving countries.

CHAD

LIBYA, SUDAN, CHAD WORK TO ARRANGE CEASE-FIRE

For reportage on the meetings of Al-Qadhdhafi and the Sudanese and Chad envoys in Tripoli to arrange a cease-fire in Chad, see the North Africa section of the 22 February Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT.

147 POLITICAL DETAINEES RELEASED FOLLOWING RECONCILIATION TALKS

LD231530Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] A Sudan news agency report from the Chadian capital, Ndjamena, says that following the declaration of the agreement on national reconciliation between all the groups in Chad, 147 political detainees from all the fronts have been released.

"The report adds that the joint military-political committee, which comprises representatives of the government and the opposition, is still contiruing its work in Al-Jinaynah [on the western Sudan near the Chad border] with the aim of drawing up a program for absorbing the combatants from the forces of the north and forces of the national army into the ranks of the (?Chadian) armed forces."

European Hostages Released

BK210839Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0827 GMT 21 Feb 78 BK

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, Feb 21 (AFP)--Chadian authorities have freed over 100 political detainees including a rebel whose release was demanded by kidnappers of two European hostages: Christian Masse, a Frenchmen, and Andre Kummepling, a Swiss.

Moustapha Adoum Adam was released with several other members of the Chad National Liberation Front (FROLINAT) and a mumber of prisoners sentenced under former President Ngarta Tombalbaye, yesterday, hours after a noon deadline for Mr Masse's execution passed with no news from his kidnappers.

Mr Masse and Mr Kummerling are held by a group calling itself the FROLINAT Western Third Army which threatened to execute them both yesterday unless France and Switzerland met several conditions including payment of a ransom and the withdrawal of French troops from Chad.

The release of the prisoners by the Chad Government is the first stage in the application of an agreement concluded on January 22 in Khartoum between Chad and rebel leader Hissen Harbre of the Northern Armed Forces Command Council (CCFAN).

BENIN

CUBAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RELAYS CASTRO MESSAGE

FL172311Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2232 GMT 17 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Rene Anillo Capote has met with Lt Col Barthelemy Ohouens, who was representing Benin President Mathieu Kerekou, in Cotonou, the capital of the Republic of Benin. The Cuban Foreign Ministry representative delivered a message to Ohouens from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Council of State and Ministers and PCC [Cuban Communist Party] first secretary. The document deals with the work undertaken in Cuba in preparation for the nonalined countries sixth summit meeting to be held in Cuba in 1979. The nonalined movement resulted from the Bandung conference; its first conference was held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in 1961.

Anillo stated that Cuba and Benin agree to maintain a militant attitude against imperialism, and to maintain solidarity with the oppressed peoples, and in favor of social progress.

NIGERIA

BRITISH MOVE AGAINST MERCENARY RECRUITMENT WELCOMED

LD212128Y Lagos International Service in English 1830 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The British foreign secretary, Dr David Owen, announced at a recent news conference that his government was exploring ways of stopping the recruitment of mercenaries from Britain. In commentary, (Shoga Agada) of our current affairs unit examines this development.

A move by the British Government to make the recruitment of mercenaries illegal in Britain is a welcome development. This is because succeeding British governments since the Congo crisis of the early 1960's have always claimed that they had no power under the law to stop mercenaries from coming to Africa. According to Britain and her Western allies, the presence of mercenaries in Africa is an individual decision which no law or act of parliament could prevent. Under the circumstances, the question is why is Britain now trying to change its attitude on the vexed issue of mercenaries?

Before this recent announcement by the British foreign secretary the practice was for the British Government and other Western nations to whip up emotion and resort to diplomatic pressures in order to secure the release of their nationals after they had perpetrated all forms of atrocities as hired soldiers. Until 1976 none of the white mercenaries were executed, they were merely given jail sentences. This did not serve as a strong deterrent because the mercenaries kept on coming with each fresh crisis in Africa. The British Government is likely to be having second thoughts on the issue because Angola refused any plea for clemency in 1976 and went ahead to execute some Western mercenaries, including a Briton. As a matter of fact, these western mercenaries were given a fair trial in court and found guilty of having committed such heinous crimes as looting and the massacre of innocent women and children. The action of the Angolan Government was justifiable, because murder and looting are recognized criminal offenses both at domestic and international levels.

Since the Angolan execution of the mercenaries, the reaction of the international community against the activities of soldiers of fortune has been on the increase. Both African countries and the socialist states have mounted pressures against the mercenaries at the United Nations and other forums. In particular they have persistently called on the Western nations to put an end to the recruitment of their nationals for mercenary activities in Africa. The unfavorable response from the West has led African countries to believe that mercenary activity is primarily an African problem. Since the Congo crisis of the 1960's, for example, mercenaries from Europe and America have caused lots of suffering in a number of African countries. These countries include Sudan, Guinea and the Republic of Benin. Undoubtedly, this realization and the rather uncooperative actions of Western countries led to the weeklong international conference on the activities of mercenaries in Cotonou, Republic of Benin, last month.

However, the news that Britain is now planning to make the recruitment of mercenaries illegal is a new angle towards international efforts to put an end to the inglorious activities of mercenaries in Africa. This is basically because Britain occupied a crucial place in this regard as a result of her position within the Western world. Apart from this, many British mercenaries are currently engaged by rebel Ian Smith in order to combat nationalist fighters in Zimbabwe and Namibia. All told, therefore, one hopes that the policy statement will not remain one of intention only, which may never be implemented for many years to come.

At the same time it is expected that the other nations from Europe and America will eventually borrow a leaf from the British example so that a concerted effort can be evolved from lovers of freedom all over the world in combating mercenary activities. If hijacking means international air piracy, mercenaries are international bandits. Consequently, if the progressive world is cooperating to put an end to hijacking, it therefore is logical that the same measures should be applied in stamping out mercenary activities. Nations should desist from harboring mercenaries. Rather than do this they should be sent back to the countries where they have committed their heinous crimes so that they could be properly tried and punished for their offences.

SENEGAL

SPAIN'S RIGHTS OVER CANARY ISLANDS RECOGNIZED

PA2040457 Paris AFP in English 0001 GMT 24 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Dakar, Feb 23 (AFP)--Senegal considers the Canary Islands to be "an integral part" of Spain, the official Senegalese press agency said here tonight, quoting government sources.

Senegal had never put Spanishness of the archipelago in doubt, the agency said.

Its report followed a recommendation by the liberation committee of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) last week that the Canaries be regarded as part of Africa and that their independence be [words indistinct] at the United Nations.

MOZAMBIQUE

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON RHODESIA

LD231232Y Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD/CA

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Mozambique [PRM] has issued the following communique on the so-called internal settlement in the British colony of Southern Rhodesia announced by the news agencies:

1. The war going on in Southern Rhodesia results from the colonial occupation of the territory, aggravated by the racist rebellion of a minority of settlers who usurped power. It can only end by satisfying the demands of the Zimbabwean people--the total and complete independence of the country, with its territorial integrity, with a democratic government legitimately designated by all its citizens without any discrimination.

2. The armed national liberation struggle, led by the Patriotic Front together with international action against the racist illegal minority regime has created favorable conditions so that, in the short-term by means of negotiations with the colonial power, the existing conflict could be concluded.

3. As a precondition for the restoration of peace and the beginning of the transition to independence, the rebellion and the racist illegal minority regime of Ian Smith must cease to exist.

4. The colonial power presented proposals for negotiations leading to independence and peace. These proposals included positive and fundamental points allowing for serious negotiations in that they laid down:

A. The principle of total and complete independence for Zimbabwe;

B. The setting up of a democratic government resulting from elections based on universal suffrage for adult citizens without any discrimination;

C. An end to the racist rebellion and its regime;

D. The dismantling of the repressive armed forces of the racist illegal minority regime;

E. The setting up of a national army, having as its base the nationalist fighting forces;

F. The recognition of responsibility of the colonial power for guaranteeing the process of decolonization expressed by the designation of a resident British commissioner and;

G. The engagement of the United Nations, including the frontline states, Africa and all progressive and democratic states, in the process of supervising a cease-fire, the dismantling of the racist forces and the democratic process of elections.

5. The U.S. Government officially associated itself with and backed the proposals of the colonial power. The UN Security Council, after being requested to do so, mandated the UN secretary general to appoint a representative to be associated with the process.

6. Last month in Malta, on the basis of these proposals and in the presence of a UN representative and the frontline states [as heard] the British and U.S. governments began talks with the Patriotic Front.

7. The talks were positive, and apart from normal points of difference, they presented a just perspective for the rapid resolution of the conflict.

8. In order to neutralize this process with the aim of effectively continuing to maintain power, hoping to gain time to internationalize the conflict, the racist illegal minority regime rejected the proposals of the colonial power. At the same time the regime intensified crimes and massacres against the people of Zimbabwe and attacks on bordering states.

9. Drawing inspiration from the sad and shattered experience of Ngo Dinh Diem, Lon Nol, Moises Tshombe and other puppets, and playing on anticommunist hysteria, benefitting from the shortsighted complicity of the most reactionary and warlike circles of imperialism and racism, the Salisbury regime is trying to prolong its criminal existence by means of the old tactic of puppet solutions.

10. The so-called internal settlement can be summed up as a crude attempt to salvage colonialism and racism, because:

It maintains the existence of the rebel regime;

In practice it reserves an effective right of veto for a handful of settlers over the wish expressed democratically by the citizen electors;

It imposes the preservation of the fundamental instrument of racist power--the armed forces--and;

(?It is destined to) continue the war against the people of Zimbabwe.

In fact it is a matter of introducing some blacks into the regime's structures in order to camouflage the reality of the colonial war as a civil war, attempting to present the consequential patriots as rebels and invaders;

11. The so-called internal settlement, if by chance it may benefit from external complicity, can only result in:

A. The inevitable prolonging of the war and;

B. The danger of internationalizing the conflict with a consequent grave threat to peace and security in Africa and the world.

12. The PRM reiterates its decision to continue to fulfill integrally its internationalist duty of supporting the struggle of the Zimbabwean people, and reaffirms the need to conclude rapidly and positively the talks begun between the colonial power and the [words indistinct] existing conflict on a just basis.

[Signed] Maputo, 23 February 1978.

ROBERT MUGABE ENDS TOUR, RETURNS TO MAPUTO

LD231915Y Maputo Voice of Zimbabwe in English to Rhodesia 1800 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Patriotic Front coleader and ZANU President Robert Mugabe returned to Maputo today after a month-long tour which took him to several African countries and to Malta.

MUGABE VIEWS RHODESIA TALKS AT ROME NEWS CONFERENCE

LD171535Y Rome L'UNITA in Italian 12 Feb 78 p 18 LD

["Ou.B." report on Zimbabwe Patriotic Front Cochairman Robert Mugabe 11 February press conference in Rome]

[Text] Rome--Zimbabwe Patriotic Front Cochairman Robert Mugabe held a press conference in Rome yesterday, during which he expressed a degree of optimism regarding the possibility of a positive agreement with Britain. "Important results were achieved at the Malta meeting," he said. "We are to meet again soon and I believe it will be possible to reach an agreement."

Mugabe also discussed at some length the problems of the international framework, saying that he believes that the Rhodesian question is not at present a source of East-West conflict. "Carter," he added, "is trying to make us understand that Washington's policy has changed from Nixon's and Ford's time and we have no reason to disbelieve him." The USSR and the United States, he added, "both want Zimbabwe's independence, though they have in mind different forms of independence." He also expressed his regret that only the Western countries refuse to grant aid to the Patriotic Front. "Through the aid which it has shipped to us," Mugabe said, "the USSR has earned a friend in Zimbabwe, but not an area of influence. Our friends and allies," he concluded on this point, "will continue to be so as long as they do not try to become our masters." The decisions regarding independence and the future of the country, he explained, must be taken only by the Zimbabwe people. In saying this Mugabe addressed Britain, challenging some of the proposals which that country, which colonized Rhodesia, made at the recent Malta meeting.

The general principle on which the Patriotic Front acts, he said, is the transfer of power from the colonial government to the Zimbabwe people's representatives. From this viewpoint, therefore, the Patriotic Front examined the British proposals made in September, found them positive and agreed to the meeting which took place in Malta. "For our part," Mugabe added, "we welcomed the British request for general elections before independence."

The Malta meeting which was held on this basis yielded various results on which it has been agreed to reflect before holding a further meeting. Regarding the transition period, the patriots have rejected the hypothesis of granting full powers to the British commissioner, which they described as "not decolonization but recolonization," proposing the creation of a governing council representing all sides including the white colonists. Britain has accepted the proposal but the exact composition of the body has still to be decided.

The military issue, however, is still entirely unresolved. The Patriotic Front is demanding the disbandment of Smith's army and its replacement with the liberation army. "The powers," Mugabe said, "must pass from the colonizers to the Zimbabwe people, the entire people including whites. But the transfer of political power without the transfer of military power would be merely an illusion and Smith is mistaken, as is Britain, if he believes he can make us accept such a solution."

The front also rejects the presence of UN armed forces, recalling previous experiences in the Congo and Cyprus. The only form of decolonialization for our country, he said, is like Kenya's or Tanzania's, that is, with a direct transfer of power. "We do not want any possibility of a conflict between ourselves and the United Nations on the role of those forces. We have, however," he added, "accepted a civilian UN presence to supervise the electoral process both during the preparatory phase and during the acutal voting."

Next he explained that the front will continue fighting while negotiations are taking place and that weapons will only be laid down when the objective of independence has been achieved.

VOICE OF ZIMBABWE SAYS SMITH REGIME MUST BE CRUSHED

LD222054Y Maputo Voice of Zimbabwe in English to Rhodesia 1800 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Because of the murder, imprisonment and torture of innocent unarmed civilians and all patriots who are fighting for the liberation of their beloved motherland, the Smith regime is a cancer among the peace-loving people of Zimbabwe. Not only is it a cancer to the Zimbabweans, like the terror of the Johannes Vorster regime in fascist-ruled South Africa, it is a cancer to the peace-loving people of southern Africa, Africa and the whole world at large. This cancer, which has proved to be very obstinate during the past decade, calls for urgent removal before too many innocent should suffer or are destroyed by it.

It is for the removal of this cancer--the terrorist Rhodesian regime--that the people of Zimbabwe and their national liberation movement decided to launch an armed struggle. For the successes of the revolutionary armed struggle in the country, it is imperative for all progressive humanity to unite and increase their support not only to refugees but also to support the liberation struggle in southern Africa.

It is also by supporting the liberation struggle that the refugee problem in southern Africa and everywhere else in the world can be solved, since oppression and suppression have (?caused) the refugee problem.

In Zimbabwe, a successful overthrow of the Smith regime and a consequent establishment of a truly people's government will put to an end the incarceration of civilians into concentration camps, the brutal torture and murder of civilians and the shameless confiscation of the land and property of the oppressed masses.

The legitimacy of the revolutionary armed struggle of the people of Zimbabwe, under their authentic representative, the Patriotic Front, has long been recognized by the frontline states, the OAU and all the progressive forces the world over.

RHODESIA

SALISBURY REPORTS HODDING CARTER STATEMENT ON SETTLEMENT

LD231226Y Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD/CA

[Text] The American State Department says the agreement reached between the government and the three black nationalist delegations in Salisbury last week is a significant step in the right direction.

Political observers in Washington interpret the statement as contradicting [illegible] earlier by the United States ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Young, who described the agreement as a basis for black civil war in Rhodesia. State Department spokesman Hodding Carter added that the British and American governments had developed [illegible] they believe will offer the people of Rhodesia an opportunity to choose their [illegible] fairly and openly. He said the United States and Britain are dedicated to promoting a peaceful settlement in Rhodesia, and Washington will not make any decisions on the basis of terrorist opinion alone.

SITHOLE DEPARTS UK AFTER TALKS WITH OWEN

LD241000Y Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD/CA

[Text] The black Rhodesian nationalist leader, the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, left [illegible] last night after a 6-day visit. A spokesman for the Rev Sithole's organization said the nationalist leader held three rounds of talks with the British Foreign Secretary [illegible] on aspects of the Salisbury constitutional talks. He is expected to arrive back in Salisbury on Sunday and rejoin the talks when they resume the following day. On his way back he will meet Zairian and Malawian government officials during stopovers in Kinshasa and Blantyre.

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA SPEAKS IN WINDHOEK, ATTACKS SWAPO ACTIONS

LD231300Y Pretoria DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION in English 1109 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Windhoek--SWAPO was not interested in a peaceful solution in South-West Africa/Namibia, Mr Pik Botha, the South African foreign minister, said here last night.

Mr Botha was speaking at a function hosted by the administrator-general, Mr Justice [illegible] Steyn.

Mr Botha said the fact that SWAPO abducted innocent children and murdered people showed that it was not fighting for the rights of the people in the territory, but was fighting against democracy as such.

Mr Botha said South-West Africa/Namibia has changed a great deal since the 60's but the growth had been so phenomenal that it was almost unique in Africa.

There was an extensive infrastructure in the territory on all levels of society.

South-West Africa/Namibia had everything going in its favor to become a safe and prosperous country after independence, he said.

"Unfortunately, the SWAPO terrorists are not interested in a peaceful solution. They are abducting schoolchildren, they burn people to death in their homes, they scalp pensioners, they shoot politicians at peaceful rallies.

"This is the kind of phenomenon the people of this country [South-West Africa/Namibia] are confronted with."

"I do not believe that SWAPO is interested in a peaceful solution at all. Indeed, at this very moment, while my department is still exchanging views with the five Western powers of the UN Secrurity Council, in an effort to find a basis for a peaceful solution that will be the basis for international recognition, SWAPO's reply is to murder people."

Mr Botha said SWAPO killed people in a cowardly fashion. It attacked South African soldiers in a cowardly fashion. It abducted schoolchildren and committed grave atrocities.

These deeds were not aimed against the South African Government, but specifically against the black people of South-West Africa/Namibia, Mr Botha said.

SWAPO had claimed it was fighting for freedom, that it was fighting to abolish discrimination. But it had already been agreed that discrimination based on colour would be removed in South-West Africa/Namibia.

"SWAPO claimed that it must fight against the so-called South African occupation of the territory.

"Yet it has been agreed that my government has undertaken to grant this territory independence by the end of this year."

South Africa had made a commitment regarding the independence of the territory. Yet, SWAPO claimed it would have to fight the South African administration and the presence of South African troops in the territory, Mr Botha said.

"We have indicated that as soon as there is a new government elected in this country, then on the basis of an agreement reached with that government, my government will withdraw its administration on this territory. South Africa could also withdraw its troops should the new government in South-West Africa/Namibia wish it.

"I do not know what more the South African Governmentcould have done," he said.

"I do not know what more anybody may wish us to do, for there is a clear indication that the leaders of this territory--as conveyed to me by the administrator-general--with the possible exception of one organisation, wish the South African Government to maintain law and order here."

A cross section of leaders in South-West Africa/Namibia wanted South Africa to safeguard the people of the territory against terrorism, to assist the people of the territory and not to place their safety and lives in jeopardy.

"The South African Government is committed to do that as long as the leaders want us to do it. We are committed to stay here and to withdraw in honour, not in dishonour," Mr Botha said.

All these demands that SWAPO had made, Mr Botha said, were in the process of being met or they had been met.

"While these demands are being met, SWAPO's reply is to abduct children, commit violence, murder officiers in a cowardly manner...so that it is quite clear they are not interested in democracy.

"They [SWAPO] are not interested in a democratic system based on a majority vote, based on freedom of expression, based on security of the person," Mr Botha said.

"I do not believe that they are fighting in the first place against the South African presence in this country. They are fighting against democracy."

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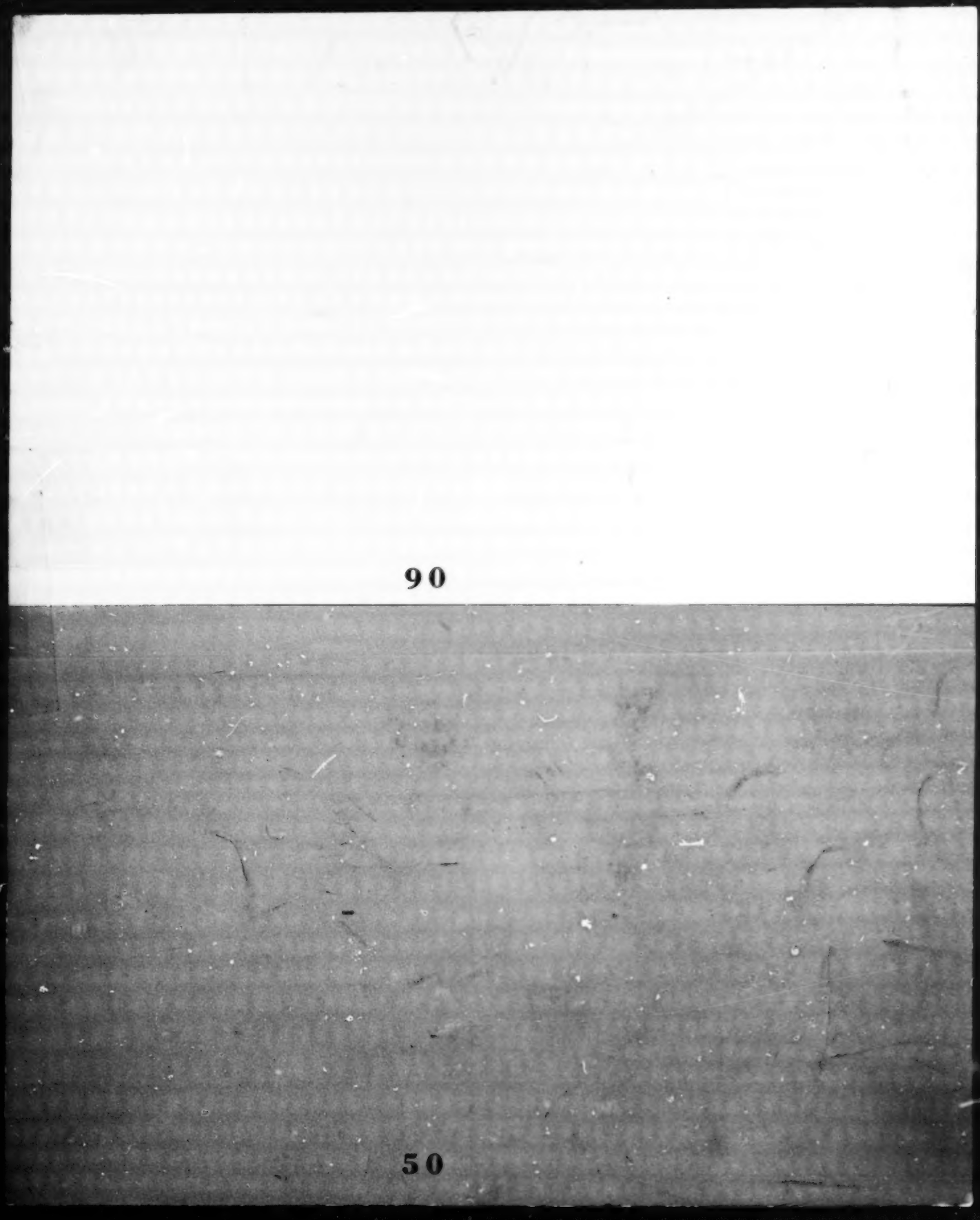
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